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INSTRUCTIONS

For them that come to be

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C O N F I R M E D.

BY WAY OF

QUESTION and ANSWER.

W I T H

P R A Y E R S

To be used before and after ;

Also, Directions to be observed during

C O N F I R M A T I O N.

THEN LAID THEY THEIR HANDS ON THEM, AND
THEY RECEIVED THE HOLY GHOST.

Act. viii. 17.



R O C H E S T E R :

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INSTRUCTIONS

For those that come to be

CONFIRMED

BY WAY OF

QUESTION and ANSWER.



P R A

To be used before and after

Also, Directions to be observed during

CONFIRMATION.

THEY SAID THAT THEIR HANDS ON THEM AND
THEY RECEIVED THE HOLY GHOST.

THEY SAID

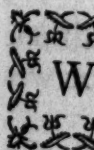


BOOKS

THEY SAID THAT THEIR HANDS ON THEM AND
THEY RECEIVED THE HOLY GHOST.



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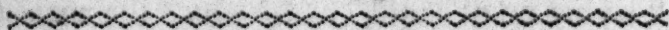
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INSTRUCTIONS

For them that come to be

CONFIRMED, &c.



QUESTION.

WHAT is Confirmation?

W A. A solemn rite, instituted by the Apostles, wherein the Bishop, by laying on of hands, and by fervent prayer, and authoritative benediction, conveys to such persons, who, in the presence of God and the congregation, sincerely renew their baptismal vow, a farther degree of God's grace and Holy Spirit.

Q. How does it appear that this rite was used by the Apostles?

A. We have the Scripture itself for the evidence of the fact; for when the men of Samaria had been converted and baptized, and had received the Word of God, † the Apostles St.

† See Acts, Chap. viii. 17.

PETER and St. JOHN were sent to confirm those new converts, to lay their hands on them that they might receive the Holy Ghost. And the Disciples at Ephesus, † after they had been baptized in the name of JESUS, were confirmed by St. PAUL, who laid his hands on them, and then they received the Holy Ghost. And farther, the same Apostle mentions as fundamentals, not only the doctrine of Baptism, but the “laying on of hands”, || by which the ancient interpreters have always understood “Confirmation”, which appeared so plain to CALVIN himself, that it was his opinion, “that this one place shews evidently that Confirmation was instituted by the Apostles”.

Q. What is the end and design of Confirmation?

A. That baptized Christians should, by their own deliberate choice, take upon themselves that vow and promise, which was made in their names by their Godfathers and Godmothers, when they were admitted members of CHRIST'S Church; so that the confirmed Person expressly consents to the baptismal covenant, and before GOD and many witnesses engages to perform his part of it.

Q. At what age is Confirmation to be administered?

† See Acts xix. 5, 6.

|| Heb. vi. 2.

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A. The church of England hath not determined any certain age, but requires it to be done only to such, as are come to a competent age; which implies, that none should be admitted, till they understand the nature of the baptismal vow, which they then renew, and till they are capable of making a prudent and firm resolution of observing it.

Q. What are the effects of Confirmation?

A. In the primitive church, these effects were extraordinary gifts, such as were necessary then in the infant state of the church; but upon the settlement of it, the Holy Spirit guides it by secret and invisible communications, which those receive, who are qualified to partake of them in this regular and ministerial way; and they are those ordinary helps and assistances, which are so necessary for enabling us to live agreeable to the gospel, which we cannot do, without the influences of God's Holy Spirit.

Q. What ceremony is used in confirmation?

A. The laying on of the hand of the Bishop upon the head of the person to be confirmed; a very ancient ceremony of giving of blessings, practised by the Jews, and made use of by our Saviour himself, and adopted by the Apostles, with prayer for communicating the Holy Spirit in Confirmation, and which gave name to the whole office, which is called "the laying on of hands".

Q

Q. What qualifications and preparations are necessary for the Candidates of this Holy Ordinance?

A. Those who are brought to be confirmed, ought to be thoroughly instructed in the nature of their baptismal vow, which they then renew and of that obligation they lie under to perform it. They ought to have a competent degree of the knowledge of those christian duties that relate to God, their neighbor, and themselves. And in order to these ends, it is adviseable that they should some time before read over the Confirmation Office. They ought also to examine themselves concerning those sins of omission or commission they have been guilty of, in thought, word, and deed; and to confess them to God, declaring their hearty sorrow and repentance for them, and earnestly begging God's pardon and forgiveness; to which they must add serious resolutions of living answerably to the christian profession and that their prayers and holy purposes may be effectual, they may do well to join fastings to them, that they may be the better disposed to receive the influence of God's Holy Spirit.

Q. Since you mention the necessity of making resolutions of living answerably to the christian profession, when you receive Confirmation: pray what do you resolve in relation to those enemies
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that oppose your Salvation, the Devil, the world and the flesh?

A. I resolve, by the Grace of God, to be always upon the watch against those various ways, in which each of them is likely to endanger my salvation.

Q. What do you resolve in relation to the Devil?

A. I resolve, by God's assistance, never to give my consent to any of those wicked thoughts which he may throw into my mind; nor to comply with any of those temptations, whereby he solicits me to sin. And I particularly resolve to avoid all pride, malice, and envy, all treachery, lying, reveng, and cruelty, which are most properly the works of the Devil.

Q. What do you resolve in relation to the world?

A. I resolve, by the help of God, not to do any thing unlawful in order to procure honor riches, or pleasure; nor to set my affections immoderately upon any lawful enjoyment. I resolve to contradict the evil maxims and customs, and to avoid the bad company of a vain and wicked world.

Q. What do you resolve in relation to the Flesh?

A. I resolve, by God's Help, to resist the unlawful desires of my own corrupt nature;
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to suppress all lascivious and wanton thoughts, to avoid all filthy and obscene discourse, and never to gratify my fleshly appetites, but with temperance and sobriety, and only in such a manner as is allowed by the law of God. And in order to this purpose, I will shun sloth, and idleness, which are common incentives to our carnal minds.

Q. What do you resolve in relation to your faith?

A. I resolve to be stedfast in the belief of the being of a God, which is evident from his making and preserving all things. I resolve stedfastly to believe that in this one glorious Godhead, there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; that the second person in the blessed trinity, God the Son, took upon him human nature, was born of a virgin, and died upon a cross as a sacrifice for the sins of the world; that he rose again the third day from the dead, ascended into Heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God; and that he will come again to judge the quick and the dead. That this Son of God, our Lord Jesus planted a church while he was upon the earth in which forgiveness of sins and eternal life are given to those who believe and obey the Gospel.

Q. Why do you resolve to believe thus?

A.

A. Because these and all other points of my creed are revealed in the holy scriptures by God himself, who is infinite truth, and cannot lie; who is infinite love, and will not deceive me.

Q. What do you resolve respecting your obedience to God?

A. I resolve to pay my obedience to him in a due and devout attendance on prayers, both in publick and private, and on the holy sacrament, I resolve to own his bounty in all the good things I receive, and to submit patiently to his wisdom in all the afflictions I suffer, I resolve to reverence his holy name, never to use it lightly, nor to profane it by customary swearing, much less by false and faithless oaths. I resolve to reverence his holy word, constantly to resort to his worship, and observe his day particularly set apart for it, and to shew a due regard to all things and persons devoted to him, and commissioned by him.

Q. What do you resolve respecting your conduct towards your neighbour?

A. I resolve by the grace of God, to be just in all my dealings, never to deprive him of his right by fraud or force; to be sincere in my expressions, and to be true to my promises. I resolve to relieve his necessities according to my ability, and to be candid in interpreting his words and actions; never to slander him

by

by false reports, or unnecessarily to publish his faults by evil-speaking. I resolve to be meek and patient under all provocations, and to be ready to forgive all affronts and injuries? and to study to promote peace among all men; I resolve to love, reverence, and obey my natural parents, and to perform the several duties I owe to all my governors in church and state.

Q. What do you resolve in relation to yourself?

A. I resolve, by the grace of God, to humble myself under a just sense of my own faults and defects, not to be puffed up with a vain consent of myself, or with a contempt of others. I resolve to be chaste in all my thoughts, words, and actions; and to avoid every thing that may in the least have a tendency to uncleanness; to be temperate in the use of meats, drinks, and all other enjoyments, and to flee from all temptations to drunkenness. I resolve to deny myself, to keep my body under by fasting and abstinence, and to mortify my affections to the things of this world; and to be ready to part with any of the conveniences of life rather than forsake the ways of truth and righteousness?

Q. From whence appears the necessity of being sincere in these resolutions?

A. Because God, who knows our hearts, will reject our pretended dedication of ourselves to his service, if we engage only out of
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custom, and in compliance with the fashion of the world; and consequently will withhold his grace from us, since we render ourselves unworthy of the influences of it, by never really designing what we openly profess.

Q. What are the advantages of confirmation?

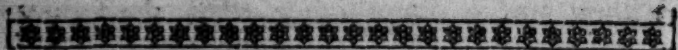
A. It is a new engagement to a christian, life, a lasting admonition and check not to dishonor or desert my christian profession, And it is moreover a testimony of God's favor and goodness to those that receive it. Because God vouchsafes thereby to communicate supernatural strength to encounter their spiritual enemies, and enable them to perform what they undertake.

Q. What is the Minister of the parish obliged to, when the Bishop giveth Notice of a Confirmation.

A. The Minister of every parish is obliged to bring or send in writing, with his hand subscribed thereto, the names of all such persons within his parish, as he shall think fit to be presented to the Bishop to be confirmed.

Q. Ought Confirmation to be received more than once.

A. It is not to be repeated, because this solemn renewal of our baptismal vow is sufficient by being once performed; and for further supplies of grace we have hereby a title to receive the Holy Communion.



A

P R A Y E R

Before CONFIRMATION.

MOST merciful God, by whose gracious providence I was born of Christian Parents, and early dedicated to thee in holy baptism; make me thoroughly sensible, I beseech thee, of thy infinite goodness in bestowing upon me the blessed privileges of being made a member of thy Church, a Child of God, and an Inheritor of the kingdom of Heaven.

Grant, O LORD, that by the assistance of thy grace, I may carefully and zealously perform all those conditions, upon which thou wert pleased to vouchsafe to me such inestimable benefits: that I may constantly resist the Devil, and all those temptations, by which he seeks to destroy me: that I may renounce all covetous desires of honor, riches, and pleasure, and all those evil customs and maxims of the World, which alienate mens minds from the
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love of God: that I may mortify the inordinate appetites of my own corrupt nature, of my own carnal mind: that I may believe all thy holy revelations, and keep thy blessed will and commandments all the days of my life.

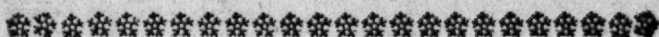
And now, O LORD, that I am about to renew the solemn vow of my baptism, and publicly in thy presence to ratify all those things I then promised by my sureties; I humbly beseech thee to enlighten my mind with the knowledge and understanding of that solemn engagement I then made, and am now about to confirm; influence my will and all the faculties of my soul, heartily and sincerely to perform it. Let not the many and grievous sins that I have committed, deprive me of those assistances of thy Holy Spirit, which I now hope to receive; but give me true repentance, and let the precious blood of CHRIST wash away all my past sins, and grant that I may be enabled to mortify and subdue them for the time to come. And forasmuch as without thee, I am not able to please thee, pour thy Holy Spirit into my heart, that by his holy inspiration I may think those things which are good, and by his merciful guidance may perform the same, through JESUS CHRIST our Lord; in whose blessed name and words I continue to pray, saying,

A PRAYER after Confirmation.

Blessed and praised be thy Holy Name, O LORD, for those fresh supplies of grace, which thou hast been pleased to communicate to me.

Increase in me, O LORD, more the gifts of thy Holy Spirit, that I may be wise for eternity and make it the chief business of my life to please thee in all my actions; that I may love and fear thee above all things; that I may be just and righteous in all my dealings, and ready to communicate to the necessities of others; that I may keep a constant watch over myself, so as not to exceed the bounds of temperance and sobriety. **16 JY 63**

Grant, O LORD, that my corrupt nature may be daily renewed and purified by thy Holy Spirit, that no danger or persecution may affright me from my duty; that no pleasure may make me careless and negligent in the performance of it; and that under afflictions most grievous to flesh and blood, I may be entirely resigned, and submit to thy holy will and pleasure. Let thy Holy Spirit, O LORD, so guide and govern me through the whole course of my short life in this world, that I may not fail to obtain eternal life in the world to come, through JESUS CHRIST our Lord. *Amen.*



DIRECTIONS

To be observed, during the

CONFIRMATION.

***T**HAT this holy office may be performed in the most solemn and edifying manner, you are desired to behave with silence and decency during the whole time you are in the church; to make all the proper answers in the form of Confirmation, and not to depart from the space before the rails of the communion table, till that set or number with which you are confirmed, shall be dismissed with the blessing from the Bishop.*

16 JY 63

